

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 562

By Bailey

A RESOLUTION to commemorate October 15, 2018, as "SIDS and Sleep-Related Infant Death Awareness and Remembrance Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, each year, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Sleep-Related Infant Death are the leading causes of infant death in the United States for healthy infants under the age of one, with approximately 3,000-4,000 deaths per year; and

WHEREAS, each year, hundreds of thousands of pregnancies in the United States end in miscarriage, stillbirth, or the death of the newborn child, and many Tennessee parents and families have suffered the death of an infant during delivery or shortly after birth; and

WHEREAS, it is a great tragedy to lose the life of a child; and

WHEREAS, even the shortest lives are valuable, and the grief of those who mourn the loss of these lives should not be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, this devastating tragedy often occurs suddenly, without warning, as a result of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Sleep-Related Infant Death, miscarriage, stillbirth, accident, or other causes or complications; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness of and education about the causes and impacts surrounding pregnancy and infant loss may lead to greater understanding and support in communities across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a day of remembrance honors the lives of children taken far too soon and supports grieving parents, grandparents, siblings, and other family members whose lives are forever altered by the heartbreak of losing a child; and

WHEREAS, those parents and families deserve and require support and understanding during their time of grief; and

WHEREAS, promoting awareness of the challenges faced by those parents and families is a positive means of establishing support and understanding; and

WHEREAS, the tragedy of pregnancy and infant loss, which exacts a terrible emotional toll, may be preventable in some instances; and

WHEREAS, parents and caregivers should be educated about prenatal care, best practices for safe sleep, and the importance of monitoring infant children; and

WHEREAS, October 15, 2018, is an appropriate day to commemorate "SIDS and Sleep-Related Infant Death Awareness and Remembrance Day" because October is recognized across the United States, and in many nations around the world, as a month of remembrance and awareness of pregnancy and infant loss; and

WHEREAS, observance of "SIDS and Sleep-Related Infant Death Awareness and Remembrance Day" offers us the opportunity to increase our understanding of the great tragedy involved in the death of infants. It also enables us to consider how, as individuals and communities, we can meet the needs of bereaved parents and family members and work to prevent such losses where possible; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of local, state, national, and international support groups are supplying programs and strategies designed to help parents cope with their loss. Parents who have suffered their own losses, healthcare professionals, and specially trained hospital staff members are helping newly bereaved parents deal constructively with loss; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commemorate October 15, 2018, as "SIDS and Sleep-Related Infant Death Awareness and Remembrance Day" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.